Safety on Railways

†*290. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far implemented any important recommendations on railway safety made by the Khanna Committee and Rakesh Mohan Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) steps taken to implement the recommendations of those two committees to prevent frequent recurrence of rail accidents which have shown a rising trend recently?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Of the 278 recommendations made by Railway Safetry Review committee-98 (Khanna Committee) in both the parts of its report, 248 have been accepted fully or partially. Of these, 53 recommendations, primarily relating to issues of Railway Recruitment Boards, training, track, rolling stock, safetry organisation etc, have already been implemented is at various stages depending upon availability of resources and success of trials etc. The implementation and compliance is being monitored at the level of divisions, zones and Railway Board.

One of the major recommendations made in Part-I of the report was that the Central Government should provide a one-time grant to the Railways to wipe out arrears in renewal of overaged assets within a fixed time frame. To implement this recommendation, a non-lapsable "Special Railway Safety Fund" of Rs. 17,000 crore has already been set up to wipe out arrears in renewal of over-aged assets of track, bridges, signalling and rolling stock and for some safety enhancement measures.

The Rakesh Mohan Committee has not made any specific recommendation on the issue of safety on Indian Railways.

There is no rising trend in train accidents and it has registered a decline of 15% in 2002-03 as compared to 2001-02.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.